

Board of Pardons & Parole Chair Cruse resigns

Friday, April 6, 2018 / Categories: **Department of Corrections** / Tags:

Date: April 5, 2018

Contact: Judy Beck, 444-0409, or Ronja Abel, 444-9725

HELENA – Board of Pardons and Parole chair, Scott Cruse, has resigned from the board effective April 30. He is taking a position in Helena with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

"I want to thank Chair Cruse for the leadership and direction he gave to an agency in transition. His direction was critical to developing a parole process guided by uniformly applied standards. With the rest of the board, he's gone a long way toward bringing Montana's parole system into the new century," Governor Steve Bullock said.

Gov. Bullock appointed Cruse to the board July 1, 2017 after the passage of Senate Bill 64 in the 2017 Legislature reorganized the board into a five-member full-time professional board. His six-year term would have expired on January 1, 2023. The Governor will need to appoint a new board member and choose the board's next chair.

"It's been a great privilege to serve on the board, especially as we've transitioned to the professional board structure envisioned by 2017 Legislature," Cruse said. "The board members and staff are top notch, and we've made significant strides in bringing about the reforms enacted during the last session."

Individuals interested in applying for a position with the Board should apply at www.boards.mt.gov, by submitting the application form, resume, CV or biography and a cover letter. Candidates can contact Stacey Otterstrom, Boards and Appointments Advisor, with any questions at (406) 444-4405 or at boards@mt.gov. To be considered in the first review of applicants, please submit an application by no later than Friday, April 20. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position has been filled.

Senate Bill 64 substantially changed Montana's Board of Pardons and Parole. Most notably, SB 64 created a full-time, five-member professional board. SB 64 also charged the Board with adopting guidelines to structure and guide parole decisions and release conditions. The guidelines must include consideration of an inmate's:

- risk and needs levels, as determined by a validated risk and needs assessment
- participation in risk-reducing programs and treatment
- institutional behavior as reflected by disciplinary records
- offense severity

###